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Conference of European Statisticians
**Sixty-sixth plenary session**
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda
**Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics**

# Annual report of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics

## Note by the High-level Group

*Summary*

This document provides a summary of the outcomes achieved by the High Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) in 2017, as well as the planned work for 2018.

HLG-MOS reviewed its vision at a meeting in March 2018. The previous vision (adopted in 2011) emphasised the use of standardised and industrialised processes for the production of statistics. The statistical community has come a long way to realising this goal. To respond to the needs of national statistical offices in a timely and effective manner, HLG-MOS must ensure that it remains adaptive to the changing environment and shifting landscape of challenges and opportunities. The new vision is presented in an addendum to this paper (ECE/CES/2018/12/Add.1).

The Conference of European Statisticians is invited to take note of the outcomes of recent projects in the area of statistical modernization and endorse the new vision of HLG-MOS.

GE.18-05158(E)

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# I. Background

1. The High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) was created in 2010 by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). It comprises the heads of thirteen national and international statistical organizations, and has a mandate to reflect on and guide strategic developments in the ways in which official statistics are produced. This document summarises the outcomes achieved by the HLG-MOS in 2017 and outlines the work to be undertaken in 2018.

# II. Achievements in 2017

2. At the 2017 June CES Plenary session, the Conference endorsed the models and frameworks developed under HLG-MOS, namely the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM), the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA), and the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO). This is an important step as these models are widely used, including outside the UNECE region, and in many cases they constitute a *de facto* standard.

3. The UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) met in December 2017. The Committee consists of representatives of UNECE member countries and guides the work of UNECE, including approving the set-up, renewal, discontinuance, terms of reference and work plans of groups under UNECE. At this meeting, EXCOM expressed support for the work of the HLG-MOS and renewed its mandate for the period of 2018 – 2022.

## A. Projects in 2017

### 1. Data Integration

4. Data integration provides the potential to produce more timely and more disaggregated statistics at higher frequencies than traditional approaches alone. However, official statistical organizations are increasingly facing challenges on how to incorporate new data sources in their statistical production processes.

5. The data integration project brought together experts from Canada, Finland, France, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

6. The project team carried out a number of experiments of integrating data from different sources in 2016. In 2017, they developed a practical guide for data integration in statistical organisations, which was supplemented by a number of use cases that were gathered through a survey of statistical organisations. The HLG-MOS projects usually have a duration of one year. Due to the importance and complexity of the issue, this project exceptionally continued for two years.

7. The full results of the project, including the Guide, are available on the project wiki (http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DI).

8. Furthermore, in February 2017, the Bureau made an in-depth review of data integration which was largely based on the materials form the HLG-MOS project. The Bureau expressed strong support to the work in this area. The Bureau underlined the need to promote actively the outcomes of the HLG-MOS project on data integration to maximise the benefit, and to follow-up on the implementation of the Guide developed under the project.

9. As a follow-up to the Bureau in-depth review and the outcomes of the project, HLG-MOS proposes to organise a Workshop on Data Integration in 2019 to promote the

implementation of the Guide, and update its contents and the use cases. The workshop will ensure that the work remains relevant and useful, as well as promote and advance data integration practices.

**2. Data Architecture**

10. Statistical organizations need to find, acquire and integrate data from both traditional and new types of data sources at an ever increasing pace and under ever stricter budget constraints, while taking care of security and data ownership. They would all benefit from having a reference architecture and guidance for the modernisation of their processes and systems.

11. The project developed the first version of the Common Statistical Data Architecture (CSDA). The purpose of the CSDA is to support statistical organisations in the design, integration, production and dissemination of official statistics. A number of interesting use cases were identified by the project, including the UN Global Platform. The first version of the Data Architecture will be released in January 2018.

12. This project brought together experts from Canada, Colombia, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. The full results of the project are available on the project wiki (http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DA).

## B. Other HLG-MOS outputs

13. In addition to the projects, work is undertaken by virtual task teams and at physical meetings. The outputs from these activities in 2017 included:

(a) Paper on "Innovative organisations: Strategies to stay relevant";

(b) Quality indicators for the GSBPM (for both survey and administrative data);

(c) Hackathon on 'Telling stories with SDG data' and its products;

(d) Logical information model for variables;

(e) Training framework for key statistical skills based on GSBPM.

# III. Work programme for 2018

14. Each year a Workshop on the Modernisation of Official Statistics is held in November that reviews the work carried out under the auspices of the HLG-MOS during that year. The workshop also considers proposals for work to be undertaken in the following year. The following sections outline the work programme that was created as a result of the discussions at the workshop on 22-23 November 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

## A. Projects in 2018

15. In December 2017, HLG MOS approved two new project proposals for 2018 that are outlined below.

16. **Strategic Communications Framework** - The project will focus on enabling NSOs to modernise their communications at the strategic level. It will include the following work packages:

- Work Package 1: Guidelines on the strategic communications development process;

- Work Package 2: Best practices on defining a position in the new communications environment;
- Work Package 3: Guidelines on issue and reputation management.

17. The work undertaken in the work packages will be informed by a sprint held on 12-16 February 2018. The outcome of the project will be reported to HLG-MOS in November 2018 and consequently to the CES Bureau in February 2019.

18. **Data Architecture Phase 2** - The project will focus on providing a more robust version of the Common Statistical Data Architecture that has been validated against use cases, as well as guidance on implementing the architecture. It will include the following work packages:

- Work Package 1: Updated version of Common Statistical Data Architecture;
- Work Package 2: Data Architecture Guidelines

## B. Modernisation Groups

19. On 19 December 2017, the Executive Board met to discuss the work programme to be undertaken by the three Modernisation Groups in 2018. The following paragraphs outline the work that is planned to be undertaken by these groups.

### 1. Capabilities and Communication

20. The Capabilities and Communication Group (chaired by Poland) focuses on the organisational changes necessary to support modernisation in statistical organisations.

21. The group will consider the topics of *organisational resilience* and a *capability development framework in line with GAMSO* during their monthly virtual meetings. In addition to the monthly meeting, a separate task team will progress work on *risk management*.

22. The Capabilities and Communications Group will organise a *Workshop on Human Resources, Management and Training on 12-14 September in Oslo, Norway*.

### 2. Supporting Standards

23. The Supporting Standards Group (chaired by Italy) provides support for the implementation of the "ModernStats" models (GAMSO, GSBPM, GSIM and CSPA) through a range of activities, which include development, promotion and maintenance of the models.

24. During their monthly virtual meeting, the group will consider the *integrated view of the ModernStats models*. The activity aims to increase understanding on how the models can be implemented individually and collectively and what benefits can be expected.

25. In addition to the monthly meeting, three separate task teams will progress work on the *revision of GSBPM*, the *revision of GSIM* and the development of a *Common semantic model*.

26. In collaboration with the Sharing Tools Group, Supporting Standards Group will organise the *ModernStats World Workshop on 11-13 April, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland*. The workshop will focus on the implementation of the four models.

### 3. Sharing Tools

27. The Sharing Tools Group (chaired by New Zealand) provides implementation support for CSPA.

28. The group will consider the update of CSPA 1.5 during their monthly virtual meetings. The group will also discuss compliance and communications issues. In addition to the monthly meeting, separate task teams will progress work on *Architecture Patterns* and *Methodology Architecture*.

### 4. Innovation stream

29. Currently, a small task team is investigating an application of artificial intelligence called Machine Learning. The team is investigating whether the 'hype' surrounding machine learning in the context of official statistics should be believed or dispelled. The team is currently finalising a position paper on whether machine learning can be used in the process of producing official statistics based on their experiences.

### 5. Other expert meetings

30. In 2018, the following additional workshops will be held:

- Workshop on Statistical Data Dissemination and Communication, 25-27 June 2018, Cork, Ireland;

  The focus of the workshop will be on cutting edge ideas, new trends, experiments, and approaches in the areas of statistical data dissemination and communication. The following substantive topics will be considered: communications environment, strategic communications, broadening the target audience, and issue management.

- Workshop on Statistical Data Editing, 18–20 September 2018, Neuchatel, Switzerland;
  The workshop aims to progress work on statistical data editing in the context of statistical modernization.

- Workshop on Statistical Data Collection, 10–12 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland
  The objective of this workshop is to identify innovative ways and best practices in statistical data collection, and to provide a platform for practitioners to exchange experiences and foster collaboration in this area.

## IV. Involvement in modernisation activities

31. As the work on modernising official statistics continues to grow and succeed, more national and international statistical organizations are looking for ways to align with the various HLG-MOS initiatives. In 2017, there were over 350 people involved from 37 national and international organisations.

32. There are various ways that statistical organizations can participate:

(a) Join the Statistical Modernisation Community – It is open to all interested statistical organizations that are willing and able to work together on aspects of statistical modernisation, and that publicly endorse a "Statement of Intent". For more information, please see: http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/smc;

(b) Get involved in projects and groups – Membership of the various projects and groups is open to anyone working in official statistics who is prepared to contribute actively to the activities of the project or group;

(c) Follow the outcomes of HLG-MOS activities – Updates and outputs are regularly posted on the HLG-MOS wiki: http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/hlgbas. Information about new products and initiatives is also shared via the LinkedIn group "Modernising Official Statistics".

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**Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics**

## Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics

**Addendum**

## A new vision for modernisation work

**Note by the High Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics**

*Summary*

The document provides a new vision of the High Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS), agreed at its meeting in March 2018. The previous vision dates from 2011 and was focused on standardising the production processes of official statistics to be more efficient.

Statistical organizations need to keep finding opportunities to maintain their relevance. Losing relevance is a big risk, as is losing the trust of stakeholders that the organisation will respond to demands. To respond to the needs of statistical organizations in a timely and effective manner, HLG-MOS must ensure that it remains adaptive to the changing environment and shifting landscape of challenges and opportunities for official statistics.

The Conference on European Statisticians is invited to endorse the new vision of the HLG-MOS.

GE.18-08292(E)

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# I. Background

1. The High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) produced a strategic vision[1], which was adopted by the CES in June 2011, and a strategy to implement that vision[2], which was adopted by the CES in June 2012. There were minor updates to these papers in 2014 to reflect governance changes.

2. These strategic documents emphasized the need for statistical organizations to standardise their production processes in order to be more efficient. The narrative that accompanied the strategy described how statistical organizations should use standardised and industrialised processes for the production of statistics.

3. Under the auspices of HLG-MOS, the statistical community has come a long way to realising this goal. Statistical organizations have converged around a core set of common standards, and a decrease in unnecessary diversity and duplication within the official statistics community can be seen.

4. The four ModernStats models, namely the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM), Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO) and the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA), are assets that will require ongoing support and maintenance. They should continue to evolve and countries should be supported in implementing them.

5. It is time to revitalise the HLG-MOS vision taking into account how the environment has changed since 2011.

# II. The changing environment

6. The world is changing fast and statistical organizations need to react, keep pace with changes, be strong in decision-making, innovate, and meet the changing needs of customers.

7. There is more data available than ever before and data is becoming more and more essential to the decisions that affect lives. In an environment where data has an increasing value, there are opportunities for statistical organizations to act as the data stewards for the broader government. Statistical organizations are changing from factories that produce statistics to organizations that provide data services to the government and public.

8. With the increase in competition and challenges for statistical organizations – it is important to be more open and transparent than ever before. The volatility of the environment in which statistical organizations operate means they have to grow their resilience. This will not only ensure continued survival but will also increase relevance and ensure they can thrive in the face of these challenges.

# III. HLG-MOS vision

9. To respond to the needs of statistical organizations in a timely and effective manner, HLG-MOS must ensure that it remains adaptive to the changing environment and shifting landscape of challenges and opportunities. It is recognised that there has been a shift in focus for statistical organisations. Although process is still important, we now also need to focus on innovation in communication, products and the services statistical organizations

[1] https://statswiki.unece.org/display/hlgbas/Strategic+vision+of+the+HLG-MOS

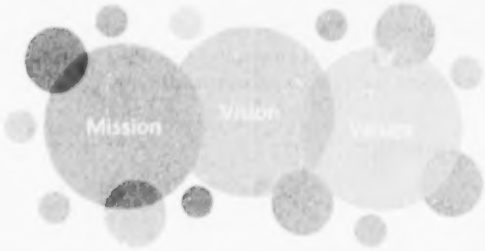
[2] https://statswiki.unece.org/display/hlgbas/HLG-MOS+Strategy

offer. Modernization programs today are beyond just tools and technology. Some of the greater challenges relate to leadership and management.

10. Statistical organizations need to keep finding opportunities to maintain their relevance. Losing relevance is a big risk, as is losing the trust of stakeholders that the organization will respond to demands.

11. The new HLG-MOS vision is presented in Figure 1 and described in the following paragraphs.

Figure 1
**New HLG-MOS Vision**




The HLG-MOS is a group of committed Chief Statisticians actively steering the modernisation of statistical organisations. Their mission is to work collaboratively to identify trends, threats, and opportunities in modernising statistical organisations. It provides a common platform for experts to develop solutions in a flexible and agile way. It is a voluntary collaboration of willing and able.

Outputs from HLG-MOS work will enable statistical organisations to:

**Actively engage** – Statistical organisations collaborate with key stakeholders such as government, researchers and the community to ensure statistical organisations have maximal impact in helping society to be more data driven.

**Be a trusted data authority** – Statistical organisations use their inherent strengths and expertise (for example, in privacy issues and data production) to advise and engage in discussions on the country's data ecosystem.

**Adopt a service oriented approach** – Statistical organisations respond to the demand for services from government, researchers and the community while remaining within the constraints of their mandate, priorities and resourcing.

**Have an agile adaptive culture** – Statistical organisations have a culture that anticipates and responds to a changing environment, as well as promotes collaboration across the organisation to deliver more quickly useful products and services.

- Developing innovative solutions
- Demonstrating leadership and collaboration
- Discussing challenges and opportunities openly
- Ensuring that priorities are community driven
- Supporting a flexible, result oriented and agile approach

modernstats
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## A. Active engagement

12. Statistical organizations have integrity and should be free of political interference. This independence should not be a barrier to engaging with external partners. Engaging with key stakeholders is crucial to the future of statistical organizations.

13. Working with government and the community is getting more complex and key stakeholders appreciate having a more open connection to the statistical organization. Stakeholders will advocate for the statistical organization and provide information on what they value. There are opportunities across statistical organizations to engage and connect with stakeholders together (for example, connecting to other industries and technology partners).

14. Statistical organizations need to collaborate with key stakeholders such as government, researchers and the community to ensure statistical organizations have maximal impact in helping society to be more data driven.

## B. A trusted data authority

15. Statistical organizations do not have a monopoly on data creation any more. In an environment where data has an increasing value, there are opportunities for statistical organisations. Statistical organizations are being asked to play the role of data authority/steward, and to be involved in discussions about their country's data ecosystem.

16. Organizations should be proactive, not passive, in responding to opportunities. They have strengths that others in government do not, and should not be shy in promoting these.

17. Statistical organizations should use their inherent strengths and expertise (for example, in privacy issues and data production) to advise and engage in discussions on the country's data ecosystem.

## C. A service oriented approach

18. The world is moving more and more towards a service based society where the focus is shifting away from providing products to producing services and experiences. Statistical organizations are no longer only data service providers. Many stakeholders are approaching statistical organizations for help to be data driven. There is a huge demand for services from statistical organizations.

19. The community wants a better customer service with more value added, but in many cases are not willing to pay for it. Statistical organizations need to respond to the demand for services from government, researchers and the community while remaining within the constraints of their mandate, priorities and resourcing.

## D. An agile adaptive culture

20. With statistical organizations being challenged to deliver new services in increasingly short timeframes, there is the opportunity to change the culture in the statistical organisati[illegible]. There should be strong emphasis on breaking down internal barriers and promoting collaboration across the organization.

21. Statistical organizations are seriously looking at how to attract talent (not just statisticians) to meet the new challenges. New skills are needed and statistical organizations

may need to bring in external people and services to meet the needs. Among our most important assets are our human resources. The challenge is to unlock this potential.

22. Statistical organizations should aim to have a culture that anticipates and responds to a changing environment, as well as promotes collaboration across the organization to deliver more quickly useful products and services.

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**Collaboration with United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Europe on geospatial data and statistics**

# Improving collaboration between United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Managements Europe on geospatial data and statistics

**Note by the Secretariat**

*Summary*

This document presents a joint proposal for deepening the collaboration between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European group of the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe). This proposal was approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in December 2018, and responded to a decision of the 67th session of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/1485) in April 2017:

*The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Decides to request UNECE to engage with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe), within existing resources, to gain a better understanding of how geospatial information can complement and support existing UNECE activities, particularly in the area of reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and to present a detailed proposal for collaboration between the two bodies, taking into account the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians of April 2016 to support professional forums for statistical and geospatial experts to share good practices and learn from one another (ECE/CES/91) and a forthcoming decision on the nature and scope of this collaboration by the UNGGIM: Europe Plenary Session, to be held in June 2017, for the consideration of the UNECE Executive Committee before December 2017.*

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# I. Background

1. In 2011, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue between member States on topics related to geospatial information. Under this Committee, five regional geospatial expert groups were established, including UN-GGIM: Europe, which was created in autumn 2014.

2. In July 2016, ECOSOC adopted a resolution on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management (E/2016/L.28). The Resolution "requests that the regional commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, and that the outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region". Support and collaboration arrangements have already been established between regional commissions and regional UN-GGIM bodies in Africa and Latin America, and are being established in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE have been gradually deepening collaboration, mainly through participation in each other's events, and the organisation of a joint Workshop on the Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Standards (6-8 October 2017, Stockholm, Sweden).

4. In June 2017 the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians "supported greater collaboration between UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe, and the development of a concrete proposal for joint work, for a decision by the UNECE Executive Committee".

5. In August 2017, at its seventh session in New York, the UN-GGIM Committee took two decisions encouraging the UN-GGIM regional bodies to work closer with the UN Regional Commissions:

- In Decision 7/101(e), the UN-GGIM Committee "encouraged the regional committees of UN-GGIM to continue their outreach to the UN Regional Commissions, and determine possible mechanisms for collaboration, and report progress back to the Committee at its next session";
- In Decision 7/107 (c), the Committee also "urged the regional committees to continue to reach out and engage with their respective regional statistical counterparts to further strengthen partnerships".

# II. Strategic areas for collaboration

6. UN-GGIM: Europe and the UNECE Secretariat recognise the mutual benefits of working together. In particular, benefits are expected in terms of improving outreach and raising awareness of the respective work programmes, as well as strengthening capacity-building activities and learning from each other.

7. UN-GGIM: Europe and the UNECE Secretariat have identified the following strategic areas as priorities for future collaboration, which are in line with the latest directions of work from the UN-GGIM Committee at global level:

- **Geospatial information for sustainable development**: In March 2017, the United Nations Statistical Commission agreed a framework of 232 indicators for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most of these Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators are broken down by

multiple dimensions, including geospatial ones such as regional or urban/rural classifications. To provide the necessary data, combinations of statistical and geospatial information are required. Combining geospatial and statistical expertise is crucial for measuring and monitoring SDGs, and tracking annual progress. In the UNECE region, UN-GGIM: Europe and the Conference of European Statisticians are ideally placed to ensure that the statistical and geospatial communities work together to meet this requirement.

- **Building networks and promoting communication:** In August 2017, the UN-GGIM Committee welcomed work to develop an overarching framework for national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management, including identifying good practices and promoting their application across member States. It also requested the development of "mechanisms for member States to build capacity to address the legal and policy matters that have an impact on the collection, dissemination and application of geospatial information". The UNECE secretariat in close collaboration with UN-GGIM: Europe can provide such a mechanism by facilitating the development of multi-disciplinary networks and promoting greater communication between statistical, geospatial and other relevant communities within the UNECE region.

- **Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information, including capacity building**: In early June 2017, the UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session agreed to open its activities for the participation of all UNECE member States. The Conference of European Statisticians welcomed this move, later the same month, noting that "capacity building activities will be needed to support this wider participation". In August 2017, the UN-GGIM Committee "urged the regional committees to continue to reach out and engage with their respective regional statistical counterparts to further strengthen partnerships" and highlighted the importance of capacity building in the form of advocacy, regional and sub-regional workshops.

- **Involvement of other UNECE work programmes**: Other UNECE work programmes, for example housing and land management, environment, transport and forestry, also have geospatial components in some of their activities. Discussions would be held between representatives of UN-GGIM: Europe and the relevant UNECE work programmes to identify potential areas for further collaboration. This would include exploring how UNECE can help UN-GGIM: Europe to extend its outreach to these and other sectors.

  As an example, several members of the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) are involved in the activities of the UN-GGIM (global) Expert Group on Land Administration and Management. Some WPLA members were also present at the seventh session of the global UN-GGIM group in August 2017 in New York. The WPLA is therefore well placed to work with UN-GGIM: Europe on issues of shared interest, such as strategies to develop better land management systems by improving cadastral and land registry systems based on geospatial data. Benchmarking of land management systems is another possible area for future collaboration.

## III. Concrete proposals for collaboration activities in 2018-2020

8. The UNECE Secretariat and the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe have agreed to pursue the following collaboration activities in the period 2018-2020:

- Geospatial information for sustainable development:
  - Involve representatives of UN-GGIM: Europe in the work of the CES Steering Group on statistics for SDGs.
  - Identify activities where the CES activities could contribute to the UN-GGIM: Europe work plan related to SDGs.
- Building networks and promoting communication:
  - Promote dialogue between national bodies responsible for geospatial and statistical information, including earth observations. A joint high-level seminar will bring together heads of national statistical, mapping and geospatial agencies to explore areas for building collaboration at the strategic level, and to share good practices.
  - Reduce obstacles to greater data sharing and more open data access, taking account of privacy and confidentiality requirements.
  - Develop wider communication networks based on the existing ones established by the geospatial and statistical communities.
- Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information:
  - UN-GGIM: Europe currently has activities on the integration of geospatial and statistical information, whilst a project under the Conference of European Statisticians has been investigating how to more effectively link these sources with administrative registers, private data holdings, so-called "Big Data", and other sources for more efficient production of all types of official statistics. Activities should be more closely coordinated and aligned, also taking into account other related global and regional initiatives.
  - Supporting the 2020 round of population and housing censuses: Population and housing censuses are traditionally seen as statistical exercises, but they use and produce a lot of geospatial information. Determining the precise location of residences and work places is essential for local and national infrastructure and service delivery planning. UN-GGIM: Europe experts will be invited to the regular UNECE meetings on population censuses. Future work could include the elaboration of guidelines for implementing geocoding in censuses
  - Linking geospatial data to all phases of statistical production, particularly the presentation and dissemination of statistics.
- Capacity building:
  - Following the joint UNECE / UN-GGIM: Europe Workshop on the Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Standards (October 2017, in Stockholm, Sweden) the scope for further joint events in specific technical areas will be considered. This will take into account national priorities and capacity building requirements of both bodies, particularly in the context of SDGs, and will leverage existing UNECE capacity building tools and platforms. The possibility of joint development of recommendations and manuals will be considered, as well as activities to develop the concept of geospatial core data across the statistical and geospatial communities.
- Involvement of other UNECE work programmes:

- Establish an internal UNECE network on geospatial information management, with representatives from all interested work programmes. This network would engage with the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee to identify activities that would bring mutual benefits.

- Cross-representation in the activities of the other body:
  - Establish formal mechanisms for involvement in the activities of the other body, to improve understanding and to learn from each other. For example, this would include granting UN-GGIM: Europe observer status in the Conference of European Statisticians, and UNECE observer status in UN-GGIM: Europe meetings. The possibility of organising a joint meeting of the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee and the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians would be explored.

- Reporting on progress / work accomplished:
  - The UNECE Secretariat and UN-GGIM: Europe will prepare annual reports on collaboration activities, to be presented to the annual plenary sessions of UN-GGIM: Europe and the Conference of European Statisticians. Those bodies will be invited to comment on the activities reported, and to propose new ones.

9. The above activities will be implemented through:

- Establishing reciprocity and participating in each other's regional meetings;
- Organising joint events on topics of mutual interest;
- Collaborating in producing outputs on relevant topics;
- Collaborating on exchange of good practices;
- Developing joint capacity building activities in member states;
- Developing the concept of core data for geospatial and statistical communities;
- Promoting easier access to data;
- Developing wider communication networks.

## IV. Implementing the work programme

10. The proposed activities form a work plan, the implementation of which has already started. The main activities that have taken place, and are planned, are as follows:

(a) The UNECE hosted a meeting of the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee in November 2017, where representatives of the UNECE statistics, environment, housing and land management work programmes reported on their work and stressed the need for closer collaboration;

(b) A second meeting of this Executive Committee was hosted by UNECE in Geneva on 13 April 2018, back-to back with a High-Level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships in Official Statistics, which explored ways to strengthen collaboration between national statistical and geospatial organisations;

(c) A joint UNECE / UN-GGIM: Europe expert group meeting on integrating statistical and geospatial standards was held in Stockholm at the end of 2017;

(d) A joint Eurostat / UN-GGIM: Europe / UNECE meeting on the integration of statistical and geospatial information was held in Luxembourg on 17-18 April 2018;

(e) For the first time, all UNECE member States were invited to attend the annual plenary session of UN-GGIM: Europe (Brussels, 6-7 June 2018);

(f) A special session on the use of geospatial and satellite information to support the data requirements for SDGs, will be organised at the next meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Statistics (Shymkent, Kazakhstan, October 2018);

(g) The use of geospatial information is important in the context of meeting information needs relating to SDGs, particularly given growing demands for geographical disaggregation of data within countries. This was discussed at the UNECE Second Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs, and related side-events (Geneva, 16-20 April 2018).